

Excerpts of Lou Gordon Show  
Broadcast May 25, 1975  
Featuring Dr. Werner Spitz & Robert Groden

by Polcoff

Spitz says he doesn't know why he was invited to examine the autopsy photos and x-rays. He says it was probably because the Detroit Medical Examiner's office is one of the largest in the country.

Explains the difference between a pathologist & forensic pathologist.

"A forensic pathologist deals with trauma, the mechanisms of injury with the explanation of injuries with regard to the ~~the~~ what causes them whereas a pathologist deals with hospital cases with diseases, mainly with establishing causes of sicknesses and causes of death of people who die in hospitals."

Conclusion after seeing material:

"Well I saw everything that was shown to me, and I think this is more or less everything that is in existence that was shown to anybody that they had. And uh, I saw the pictures which are excellent, of the autopsy, and I saw the Zapruder film, and the clothing of the President. There is absolutely no question. I would have to go back to school if I determined that the bullet wounds in the President were anywhere but in the back of the neck, not twelve, uh not six inches, but exactly 10 centimeters which is four inches from the shoulder and in the back of the head. These are contest... uh incontestable entrance ~~WIMMIS~~ bullet wounds. No question about that. The bullet wounds of exit in the President in the neck, of course I couldn't see the actual bullet wound because they had made a tracheotomy through it to make an artificial airway so that the President could breath. And certainly the neck below the adam's apple where this bullet wound was described, the exit wound in the throat, is above the level of the entrance wound, but nobody sits in such a way. If you take a friend of yours with a lit... in a normal relaxed position in a chair, and with his shoulders a little bit lunched down, that level of where the exit wound was becomes down. It gets to be down from the entrance wound... from the level of the entrance wound. There's no question about that. And the bullet wound in the head was in the back on the right side, traveled forward, you can see in one place on a picture I believe, or is it an X ray, where the bullet, I believe exited. The fact that the right side of the head is shattered and blown to pieces. That's, we're talking about a high-powered missile here, and this is what happens. This is what you see. What else do you expect? If you interpret it any differently, we teach this to our residents.. And I saw the pictures of the brain. It was pummel-shaped of injury in the brain. The pictures of the brain show it quite clearly. I had no doubt that this is what had happened. And the entrance wound in the back of the shoulder, exit in the neck, and a bullet wound in the head which was a second one: in the President which travelled forward.

Now as far as the so-called pristine condition of the bullet, did you actually hold it in your hand?

Groden: Never have, no.

Spitz: Yes, I held the bullet in my hand, and the pristine condition is evident in the picture, but if you turn the bullet over and look at the base there is a hunk of lead missing from the bullet.

Groden says the hunk of lead was removed by the FBI, and Spitz corrects him that the piece that was removed was from the tip. Groden asks if Spitz is suggesting that the bullet reversed itself in mid-air and struck base first. Spitz mis-interprets (?) the question.

Spitz: I would not be surprised if this is what happened, because according to my information the wound in Governor Connally's back was 3 cm. which is an inch and ~~XX~~ three-quarters which roughly corresponds to a bullet striking the Governor sideways. And I would not be at all surprised if that's what happened. Besides what you said about the bullet going through the President's back and not hitting bone is also not true because it did damage two vertebrae, the lowest one in the neck and the uppermost one in the chest.

Groden: The third thoracic vertebrae?

Spitz: No, the first.

Groden: Then you're saying the President's own physician was wrong?

Spitz: I'm saying that the President's own physician was not a radiologist, and maybe he overlooked that. But there's no question about that being the case because there are these two little pieces of lead situated in that location. And I would not be at all surprised if the bullet did leave a little fragment of lead where it struck a piece of bone. So in my opinion the bullet came out from the neck. If you consider the possibility, since you don't really know what had happened behind the sign when the President's motorcade was behind the sign which is noted on the Zapruder film. Since you don't really know what happened there, that the Governor may have turned around. He also stated that he did, talking to the President, in which case he would move his right arm on his, or his right hand holding the hat onto his left side, and turned sideways back a little bit, and talked to the President to say "what did you say, John?" and the bullet in the meantime travels through his back, comes out his chest under the nipple, goes into his left wrist and goes into his thigh. Which is exactly what I believe happened.

Groden quotes Connally's testimony that he ~~had~~ heard the shot and was turning to his left when he was hit.

Spitz says this is very likely if you were sitting there with a stop watch, but he wasn't... Groden replies that the Zapruder film "is a stop watch." Spitz replies that Kennedy was hit behind the sign and Groden does not know when behind the sign the bullet struck the President. "All you know is when Governor Connally reacted, and since you don't really know whether Governor Connally had a rapid reaction time or a slow reaction time..."

Groden: Doctor, his fifth rib was shattered.

Spitz: So.

Groden: Physically.

Spitz: So.

Groden: He had a 1.8 second delayed reaction....

Spitz: But what do you know about shattering of ribs? How many shattered ribs have you yourself seen? ...

Spitz: I have always been told that I'm an honest person and I say what I believe. I had no reason to believe... that he would have reacted the second or the fraction of a second that he was struck. In fact this

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In no common that people react like. And that don't surprise me whatsoever.

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Spitz says all the doctors who examined the material were in general agreement (referring to the Rockefeller Commission).

Spitz: ... I see really nothing in the evidence that would point to the contrary or to an even modified situation. ... The bullet that struck the President in the back came out in the neck, in the throat, in the front, continued in my opinion, after beginning to tumble, into the Governor of Texas' back. It slid around the fifth rib, which bullets sometimes do when they hit a curved bone, traveled along the rib, broke it. Pieces of this penetrated the lung, and then continued into his wrist in a wobbling movement, tumbling movement, broke the radius two inches above the wrist, continuing into the thigh, and left lead along the passage. Now, I dare say, I have no way of determining how much lead is present along the track but it looks totally compatible with the amount of lead that's missing in the base of the bullet. There is very little lead missing. Maybe I should leave out the word very. There is little lead missing in the base of the bullet.

Debate follows over how much lead was left in Connally.

Gordon asks Spitz if there's any possibility that the bullet came from the grassy knoll or from the front.

Spitz: No.

Gordon asks if there was any possibility that the shots came from anywhere but the 6th floor of the TSBD.

Spitz: This I have to answer in the following way. ... the shots are consistent with having come from this place...

Groden asks Spitz if he's aware of reports that the bullet entered only a short distance and did not exit.

Spitz: Let me tell you something. You do not probe wounds.... I don't mind what they did. I don't care what they did. I'm telling you. You ~~do~~ <sup>do</sup> not probe wounds. It gives no results. You can only see where you are with your eyes ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> the skin, but not under the skin when you don't cut into it. The skin of the President was not cut in. And there are two broken vertebrae deep inside...

Groden cites some testimony of Parkland doctors. Spitz replies, without drawing the obvious analogy to the autopsy doctors that: "the fact that they are doctors is about as, makes them as remote from forensic pathologists as you and me."

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Spitz: Do you mean to tell me that the pictures are lying?

Groden: Thank you, yes...

Spitz: But I saw the President's face on the pictures. You mean that they put a dummy there for me to look at?

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Spitz: You know, Mr. Groden, the fault of the controversy in this country is that there is too much argument with those who do not

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know. The people have lost confidence in what they are told. They have lost confidence in the Government, in the Government's statements. Everybody makes opinions. Nobody relies on anything anymore...

Groden asks what about Spitz' statement on 4/21/75 on Detroit radio that bullet wound was in Kennedy's back.

Spitz: I will tell you now this. It was neither the neck nor the back. It was his shoulder. What do you say now? Does it matter what we call it?